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Approved For Release 2004/06/29 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000600150024-2

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27 January 1960

* MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Operational ICBM Sites

1. Although Mr. Khrushchev claims that the Soviet Union has missiles that can hit a target any place in the world with a nuclear warhead, [Redacted]

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[Redacted] although we estimate that

the Soviet Union now has an initial operational capability to fire these missiles against targets in the US, we do not know the location of a single operational site from which the Soviet Union is prepared to fire these missiles. This means:

a. We do not actually know if there is any substance in Mr. Khrushchev's boasts at the present time.

b. If the Soviet Union does have an initial operational capability to fire missiles against the US we do not know the number of missiles now ready, the rate at which missiles are being added to this capability, or whether the Soviet's operational concept involves hard sites, soft sites, a partially mobile system or an all mobile system.

c. In spite of the great power of the Strategic Air Command, SAC has no means of protecting the US against Soviet

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ICBMs because we are unable to provide them with the necessary target information concerning these weapons.

2. Although the Soviets claim that the world power balance has shifted, and we are entering into a critical period of negotiation in which relative power will have considerable weight, we are unable to provide the President and the Secretary of State with the hard facts about Soviet ICBMs to support our evaluation of the true Soviet power position. This cannot help but harm their ability to carry forward these negotiations.

3. The problem of ICBM deployment has had a top priority in the intelligence community for over a year. The Critical Collection Problems Committee has devoted great effort to the problem. A wide range of collection systems have been considered and all of any likely value have been tried or are now being carried forward.

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4. Another major recommendation of the CCPC, also endorsed by the USIE, was to employ the CHALICE program vigorously in an

attempt to find operational ICBM launch sites. Since that time there have been two CHALICE missions. Although both missions turned up a great deal of useful information, particularly that relating to Soviet defenses against SAC, neither mission revealed an operational ICBM launch site [redacted]

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5. The intelligence community obviously will continue to push for information on this problem through all likely avenues of attack and some useful information may be collected.

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[redacted] We have,

in general, two prospective sources of aerial photography, the CHALICE program and various satellite systems. The photography produced by the satellite systems [redacted]

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[redacted] The CHALICE program is the only system likely to produce

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photography of sufficient quality to assure us that we can find
missile sites.

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The Ad Hoc Requirements Committee has agreed on a

series of highest priority missions to be conducted in the future.

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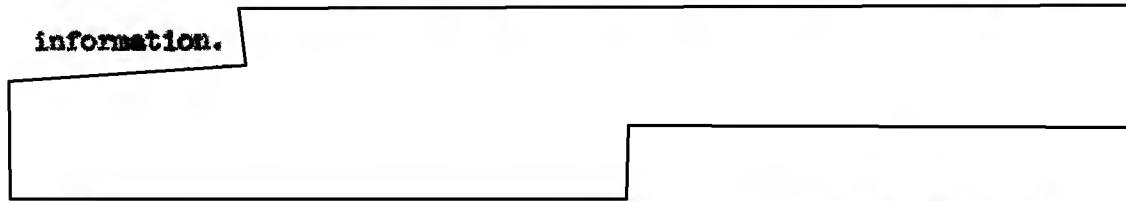
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missions recommended by the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee at the present time are designed to cover part of the search area selected as well as those areas for which there is any shred of suspicious information.

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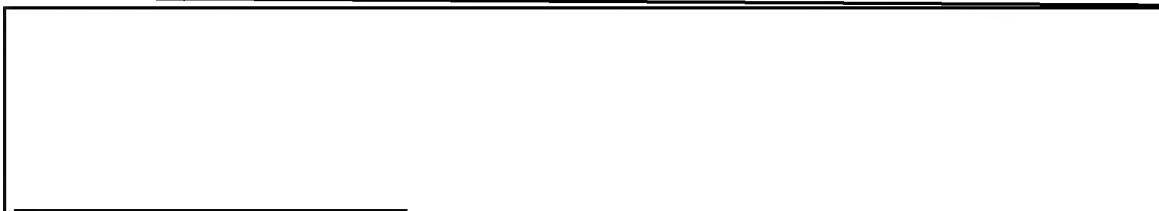
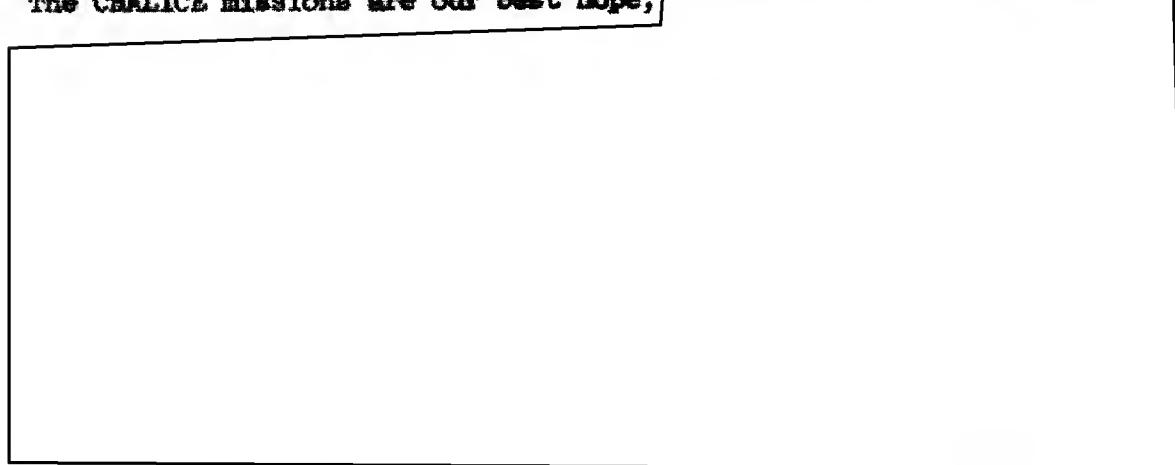


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CHALICE missions will

give us information on the location or absence of Soviet ICHM sites.
The CHALICE missions are our best hope,

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10. In view of the situation described above, it is recommended that we seek permission for an expanded use of the CHALICE system on a most urgent basis.

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Chairman,
Critical Collection Problems Committee

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